

August 11, 2015

Surface waters collected on Saturday, August 8, 2015

Surface water samples were collected at nine (9) locations along the Animas River and the San Juan River of New Mexico. The results for the dissolved (filtered) metals surface water samples indicate that all nine locations were less than the screening levels for drinking water (maximum contaminant limits (MCLs)). The dissolved metal concentrations were less than screening levels for aquatic life (acute and chronic), livestock, and irrigation of crops. The dissolved metal concentration in surface water represents the fraction of metals that are bioavailable. This bioavailable portion represents the fraction of metals that can cross the gills of fish and the cell membranes of aquatic organisms.

The results for total metals (unfiltered) surface water samples indicate that all nine locations were less than screening levels with the exception of MCLs for arsenic and lead. The dissolved (filtered) surface water samples were less than the MCLs for arsenic and lead. The normal treatment of water by water supply operators will remove most of the arsenic and lead from the water. What is left after treatment will be the dissolved (filtered) surface water.